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Govt active to make polls transparent

Hasina tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The present government has taken necessary measures, including full support to the Election Commission to make the upcoming national elections transparent, fearless and acceptable to all, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told the parliament yesterday.

“Our government is determined to make the national elections free, fair and impartial. No election held during our government’s tenure has been put in question. We have set a high standard in organising elections,” said the premier.

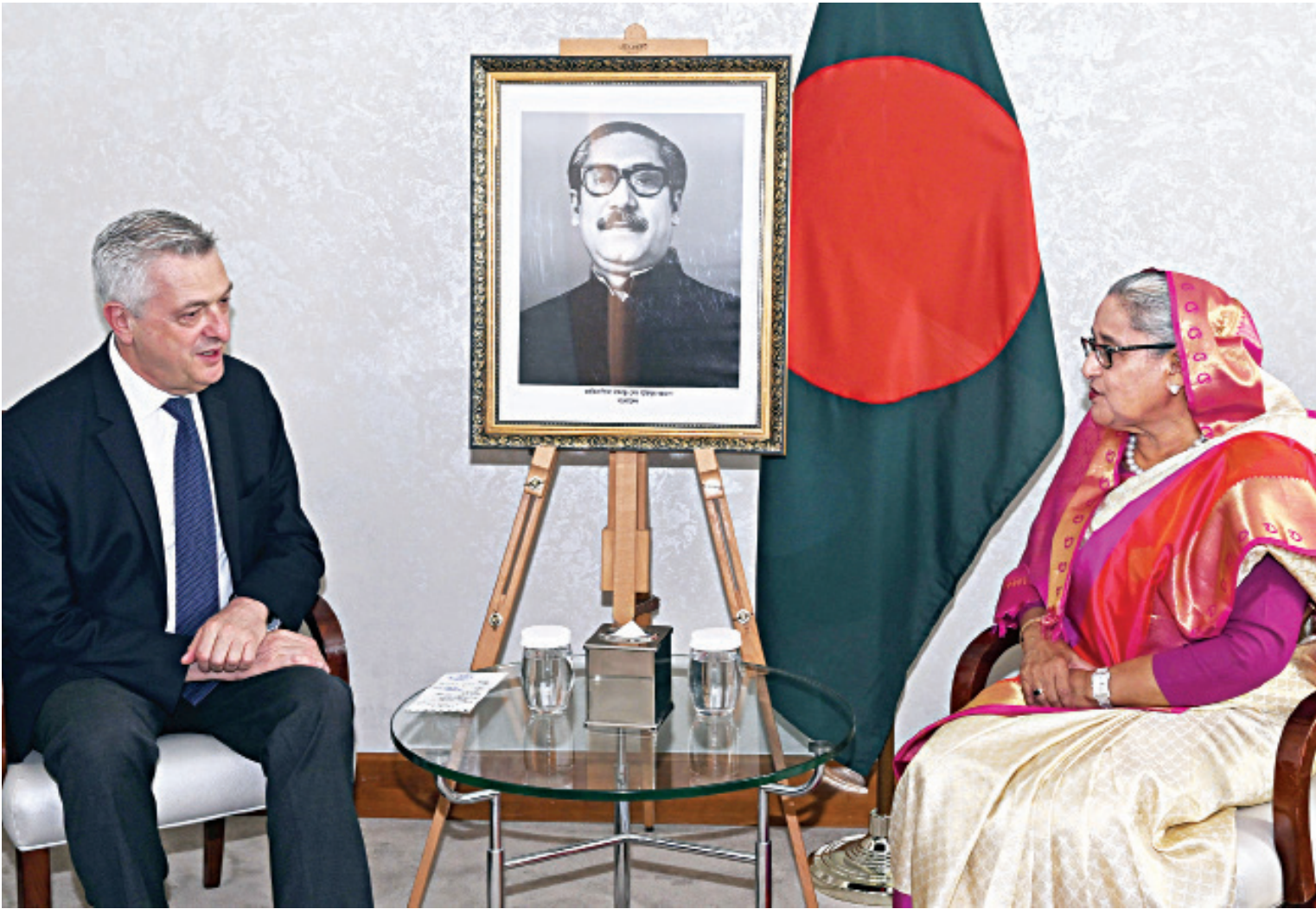
Hasina said this in reply to a tabled question from the ruling Awami League lawmaker Kazim Uddin from Mymensingh-II.

In his question, the AL MP wanted to know whether the government has taken any special steps to make the upcoming national elections fair and free.

With Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair, the question-answer session of the premier, who is currently visiting Switzerland, was tabled.

Hasina in her written reply outlined various measures and pledged for

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi at a hotel in Geneva yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Animal waste to be cleaned on Eid day

Says LGRD minister; animal sacrifice in designated spots

UNB, Dhaka

Like previous years, animal waste will be removed by the evening on Eid day, said Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Md Tazul Islam yesterday.

Besides, animals will have to be sacrificed at designated places, he said while speaking at a meeting at the conference room of the Local Government Division at the Secretariat.

Efforts have been made to ensure that there will be no pollution from sacrificial animal waste, the minister added.

He also said building owners in all city corporations and municipalities will get a 10 percent rebate on the holding tax for rooftop gardening.

“The decision has been taken to bring down the temperature,” said the minister.

At the meeting, mayors of Dhaka city corporations, Barishal and Sylhet were present.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for Dhaka North City Corporation to set up cattle markets at Aftabnagar in Dhaka ahead of upcoming Eid-ul Azha.

Bodies of woman, daughter recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the bodies of a woman and her 10-year-old daughter from Dhaka’s Badda area early yesterday.

The deceased are Mahmuda Haque Bristy, 33, and her daughter Sanja Marwa, 10.

Law enforcers recovered the bodies from Badda’s Farazy Hospital around 3:00am and sent them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsies, said Sadek Mia, sub-inspector of Badda Police Station.

They also detained Bristy’s husband Md Selim, 40, from the hospital after the victims’ relatives accused him of killing the two.

Selim and other relatives took the bodies to Farazy Hospital, the SI added.

Sohel Sikder, Bristy’s uncle, said Selim called her family members around 2:00am and said his wife and daughter drank poison at their Merul Badda house.

“I rushed there and found them lying unconscious. Selim was in the room and neighbours were taking care of their nine-month-old son,” he said. Soheli alleged that the relationship between the couple turned sour following Selim’s extramarital affairs.

Release all DSA arrestees including Khadija before Eid

Demand socio-cultural organisations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 30 social and cultural organisations have issued a joint statement demanding the immediate release of all people arrested and detained under the controversial Digital Security Act (DSA), including Khadijatul Kubra, a second-year student of political science at Jagannath University.

The statement was issued under the banner of

Khadijatul Kubra, 17, has been in jail for the past eight months since the charge sheet was submitted and her repeated requests for bail have been denied.

“Protesting Socio-Cultural Organisations”, and signed by Kankan Nag, secretary of the publicity and information technology division of Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigoshiti,

The statement termed the DSA an anti-people and oppressive law and called for its immediate abolishment. It also highlighted the case of 17-year-old Khadijatul, who was charged under the DSA in 2020. Despite being a minor, the police registered the case by falsely presenting her as an adult.

She has been in jail for the past eight months since the charge sheet was submitted and her repeated requests for bail have been denied due to the objections of the state.

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For alleviating poverty, enhancing livelihoods

MJF launches UNDP, EU-funded project in CHT



Guests and speakers at the event yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) yesterday launched the “Partnership for Resilient Livelihoods in the Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) Region” project, aiming to alleviate poverty and enhance the lives of extremely low-income households in the area.

As many as 98,000 people in Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari will directly be benefited from the project, funded by the European Union and technical support from UNDP Bangladesh.

Around 52 percent of CHT’s population lives below the poverty line, while the national rate is 18.7 percent.

The EU has donated a budget of EUR 8 million (USD 8.65 million) for the 2023-26 project, which will work under three components, including resilient livelihoods, nutrition, and social protection and advocacy, according to MJF officials.

During her opening speech, Shaheen Anam, MJF executive director, underscored the significance of the project in addressing the escalating poverty, child malnutrition and drinkable water crisis in the CHT region.

“In this context, the PRLC project will play a vital role. But we all have to work with integrity to achieve our goals,” she said.

Speaking as chief guest, Bir Bahadur U Shwe Sing, minister of CHT affairs, said, “The government is dedicatedly working in CHT to alleviate poverty and improve livelihoods. We deeply appreciate our development partners working alongside

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‘Budget must be more pro-women’

Mahila Parishad calls for more allocation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Preventing child marriage and girl dropouts, which necessitate more investments, received little attention in this year’s budget, said speakers at a press conference yesterday.

In addition, they advocated for the establishment of a monitoring and implementation system as well as an inspection during the implementation of the gender budget, so that the budgetary allocations could be evaluated annually.

“Social norms continue to exclude women, and gender budgets are insufficient to accelerate women’s independence. Funding should be increased for initiatives that promote the advancement of women.”

DR FAUZIA MOSLEM
President of Mahila Parishad

The event titled “Gender sensitivity of the announced national budget” was organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at the capital’s Jatiya Press Club.

Maleka Banu, general secretary of BMP, said, “The gender budget does not include significant funding for women. This year, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs retains only 0.6 percent of the total gender budget. The allocated funds should be used to reduce the inequality

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Bapa gets new leadership

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon elected their new acting president and general secretary in its 152nd meeting yesterday.

They were elected in a meeting convened to decide the next course of action after resignation of Sultana Kamal, former president, and Sharif Jamil, former general secretary of Bapa.

Prof Nur Mohammad Talukdar was elected acting president and Alamgir Kabir the acting general secretary.



Two pedestrians call out a biker after he hops onto a walkway with his motorbike to avoid being stuck in traffic near the Banglamotor signal. This scenario has become quite common in the capital due to significant increase in the number of bikes. This photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

DENGUE FEVER 1 dead, 201 hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more dengue patient died while 201 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till yesterday morning.

So far, 28 people have died from dengue this year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the new cases, the total number of cases rose to 3,802. According to the DGHS, 806 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment at different hospitals.

Total number of deaths in dengue was 281 last year while the total number of cases was 62,382, of which 23,162 were from outside Dhaka, DGHS data shows.



BATTLING CHILD LABOUR

Govt, civil society need to collaborate

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The lack of effective implementation of laws related to child rights is causing insufficient safeguarding for children engaged in work, said Aroma Dutta, vice chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on social welfare ministry, in a dialogue yesterday.

“To address this grave concern, both the government and civil society must collaborate to formulate a concrete plan of action,” she said at the dialogue jointly organised by Action for Social Development, Shapla Neer, and Educo Bangladesh in the capital.


Speakers said child domestic workers endure physical and emotional abuse, as they lack fixed working hours, nutritious food, proper medical support, and access to education.

Furthermore, they are denied their civil rights, exacerbating their vulnerability and perpetuating a cycle of exploitation.

Lawmaker Aroma Dutta called for compulsory primary education for these children to ensure

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PRAYER
TIMING



JUNE 15

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-05	12-45	5-00	6-50	8-15
JAMAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION